Ontario OPTIONS

405-190 Mountain St., Sudbury, ON. Canada P3B 4G2

December 13, 1995

Dear Harold,

I enclose the latest issue of Ontario Options.

Please see pages 2 and pp.3-4 and 14.

I appreciated the courtesy you extended to me when I dropped in on you and I hope that you and Mrs. Weisberg are in good health and spirits.

Congratulations on your work for the right...as in justice and decency that is...your indomitable spirit has been an inspiration to me and others.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Don Scott

Don Scott, Editor.

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Ontario OPTIONS

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HAROLD WEISBERG

HE'S OLD AND WISE AND DEEPLY SAD... "*I ASK NOT WHAT MY COUNTRY CAN DO FOR ME, AND I SHUN NOT WHAT I CAN DO FOR MY COUNTRY.*" MODERN AMERICA'S EMILE ZOLA... BUT WHO CAN HEAR WHEN HE DECLARES "J'ACCUSE"? STILL TELLING IT LIKE IT IS.

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Wouldn't you know it?

The first time we publish a picture that shows a female in leaves that exceed most modern bathing suits and a male in a leaf and a top hat we get inundated by phone calls... well, four calls to be exact...and six, count 'em, six letters about how sexist we are. And tragically, all letters and phone calls were from ladies.

Now tell me...is it just that men don't notice things like bare flesh while women do or is it that callous macho men take such things for granted and turn their eyes, not to the leaves but to the money tree in the background?

By the way, in case you miss the allusions, I'm talking about the cover on the last issue of *Options*. It was a Donato cartoon from the dust jacket of the Hon. Paul Hellyer's new book, *Funny Money*. The cartoon featured someone who might represent Eve and someone else who is clearly Adam because it says so on his top hat.

Well, anyway, we were trying to communicate the point that people, i.e. Eve, will ignore the money available from the tree and will act as if she can only get it from Adam. And also tied to the myth is Adam's comment, 'Of course you can have some, but first you will have to show me your collateral'.

That Adam presumes to require anything is the irony in the light of the wealth that grows so naturally. It is like the modern banking system which presumes to control money...the medium of exchange... and ignores the real wealth that is generated by society when they plough fields and mine nickel and paint houses.

There are myths of society that wont bear a careful study, but most people go on believing them as if they were true. And when *Options* renders a myth that kids it a bit there are a number of people who can't get below the surface...just like they can't or won't plumb the depths of our social myths.

My initial inclination was to treat the letters lightly, but my wife Cecile said 'Don't do that...show them what the myth comes from...in fact get Mary (a family name for Rita Marie Courtemanche) to write something about it.' Mary once taught art in high school but left after about ten years to marry and be a homemaker. The idea was, like most of Cecile's suggestions...but not all of them...quite interesting so at a family gathering I showed Rita Marie the cover and I said 'I think this is based upon a picture in the Vatican'. She replied 'Are you art literate or what, the painting in the Vatican...' but let her tell you in "On Myths and Misses and Maple Leaves."

I was driving through Maryland last spring when suddenly I saw the sign: 'Welcome to Frederick'. It occurred to me that this was the home of Harold Weisberg most of whose books I had read since they dealt with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

I turned off the road at the next intersection and drove into the middle of the very pleasant and ancient town where at a Tourist Information booth I phoned Mr. Weisberg. I explained that I was just passing by and wanted to phone him with my best wishes...'Are you coming out?' he asked quickly. I explained that I didn't want to interrupt any...'Oh, nonsense' he broke in, 'if you want to come by we'd be delighted to have you. Let me tell you how to get here...' And, before I could find a way to suggest otherwise I was off across town to a wandering road into the country and nestled in a wooded valley was the Weisberg home, where Harold and his wife greeted me like kinfolk.

After some brief introductions, Harold pointed to a door to his basement. With a wonderful candor he said 'You can go on down to my files. My heart wont let me go up and down anymore, but anyone who wants to see my files is welcome to the run of the place.'

I went down the stairs where a large basement was filled with 60 or 70 or more filing cabinets. Each drawer was filled with carefully cross-referenced files that covered every significant word in the official 27 volumes of United States Government cover-up known as the *Warren Report*. For three or more hours I browsed through what must be one of the most comprehensive and impressive collections of evidence and analysis that exists outside of official hands. It was a very impressive monument to two great people, Harold and Mrs. Weisberg, who have supported each other in the long and thankless task of exposing the truth of what happened in Dallas on November 22, 1963. I am pleased to see that Paul Lalonde has linked Harold's *Selections From Whitewash* with two other important books: Charles Reich's *Opposing the System* and Donald Gibson's *Battling Wall Street*. If you don't know the truth of what's going on, it's not because there was nobody trying to tell you. It was just that you weren't looking hard enough.

I'm still enjoying my computer course and I want to state how thoroughly professional and efficient the International Correspondence Schools are. My computer, keyboard and CPU all arrived in good shape and I am continuing in my efforts to become computer literate. I am now on lesson ten (of 17 lessons) and find the study a delightful recreation as much as a study effort. By the way, if you are interested in taking a computer course which will provide you with all the hardware and software as well as lessons and exams, you might want to write to me. I have prepared a three page summary of study tips that have served me very well and, if you enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope I will send you a copy. At the same time, with your permission, I will send your name on to ICS in Montreal. Write to me with your S.S.A.E. at:

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BOOK REVIEW

Unknown Masters; Invisible Bonds; Unwitting Slaves

The idea has been around for a long time.

In 1962, in *The Warfare State*, Fred J. Cook referred to "(t)he ultra-conservative classes that rule our 'military-industrial complex'" picking up on the theme of Eisenhower's final address as President to the American people.

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., referred to 'the American Establishment'...'that arsenal of talent which had so long furnished a steady supply of always orthodox and often able people to Democratic as well as Republican administrations.'

Professor John Kenneth Galbraith carried the theme into the nineties when he wrote: 'What exists is said to be an expression of democratic will. Democracy is here, as elsewhere, the gracing note for a singularly independent and self-reinforced exercise of authority. It is the rood screen, perhaps more precisely the altar, behind which the modern military-industrial complex enjoys its self-generated and self-serving autonomy.'

The idea beneath the theme in each case is that someone is running the show from behind the scenes.

Such an idea is not limited to scholars. Even one as insidious as Richard Nixon believed that there was a 'counter government' deliberately trying to undermine his policies. Perhaps it was this 'counter government' that precipitated his fall from power by sabotaging the Watergate break-in?

Three recent books re-examine the idea: Charles A. Reich's *Opposing the System*; Donald Gibson's *Battling Wall Street*; and Harold Weisberg's *Selections From Whitewash*. Each, in his own way and with varying degrees of precision, declares his belief that those who are running things from behind the scenes do so to advance their own interests and powers without regard for the effects that their actions may have on the rest of humanity.

Charles A. Reich is best known for his *The Greening of America*, written for the 'Youth Revolution' of the late sixties and early seventies...a revolution dismissed by Peter Drucker as a 'ninety days wonder'. For several years it seemed that Drucker was right. Instead of a 'greening' there was ,according to Herbert Parmet, a regression from the visions of the New Utopian theorists led by people like Reich. Now, almost three decades later, Reich is back with an important new book: *Opposing the System*.

Reich begins his new book with a sketch of an economic system which might well be seen as a summary of Mike Harris' *Common Sense Revolution*. "Today," says Reich, "economic growth may be premised on forcing wages down to save costs, excluding an ever larger number of people from the workforce in the name of efficiency, imposing costs on those least able to pay, and undermining rather than supporting those 'noneconomic' values such as family...Today's 'growth' promotes inequality, division, and impoverishment..."

The 'System', says Reich, has no name, but represents a higher level of decision making at which choices affecting us all are made. And these choices tend to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. So powerful is this System it must be recognized as an 'Invisible Government'. Yet, Reich suggests, "It is not a conspiracy. Instead it is a consensus that does not require conscious choice by separate executives or companies...but merely acquiescence in underlying assumptions."

And here Reich reflects his fundamental flaw. Intellectually he can recognize the reality of the world around him, yet he is too fundamentally conservative to attribute the actions that create the reality to anything other than a meeting of minds by those who have control of the wealth—and he isn't inclined to be more precise. He leaves this powerful force in the shadows and suggests that "Even members of the elite do not necessarily recognize the coordinated decision-making process of which they are a part."

Consciously or unconsciously this elite group arrives at a consensus and then executes their will through the medium of an elite management class into whose hands the running of the economy has been passed..."Major decisions are made by a centralized group of corporate and governmental managers rather than by the operation of Adam Smith's 'Invisible Hand'...the extent of poverty is determined by managerial decisions over which the poor themselves have no control, such as interest rate increases that diminish the number of jobs available."

But wait a minute—isn't the decision on interest rates made by the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board in the United States and by the Governor of the Bank of Canada in the latter country? And are these two critical functionaries not responsible consciously to someone? Of course they are, so the question is who? Reich carefully skirts the question by alluding only once to the Federal Reserve Board when he describes how President Clinton in 1994 "quietly accepted the (Fed's) program of raising interest rates at the expense of employment."

Because he will carry his analysis no further, Reich leaves his readers with no theory of just who the unknown masters are and just who is running things.

Opposing the System is a marvellously lucid summary of the economic world we live in. Anyone

one hand, "nice, teaching,/Walking, talking" while on the other hand they are "Tired, angry, frustrated .../School-people".

Whichever theme emerges, and however imperfectly it may be expressed, I believe it is vital to the full and healthy development of the child that he is given the opportunity to call up and place upon paper his deepest feelings. Like my son, John, when he has written his emotions down, he is more capable of dealing with them .

This idea was aptly expressed by Rosemary Nadalin of Marymount College in the 1974 edition of *Northern Lights 5:*

Speak with your heart and soul
and Feel the understanding of
a trusting friend.
Then your Dreams will come true
When your Life is drained from hate
and filled with inspiration.

Finally, as many of these poems reflect, the process of finding the right word to capture an elusive, fleeting feeling is a very difficult process. The fact that these children have achieved a degree of success in this process reflects, in most cases, a great expenditure of energy. Each poem is a mountain that has been scaled and, before you point out any flaws (as I am sure most of you would not do), just ask yourself: "How many mountains did I scale today?"

EDITORIAL POLICY

We will be happy to receive your poems...however, we must ask you to observe the following:

1. Due to time constraints we ask you to send a cheque for $5.00 with each poem submitted. If we decide to use your poem or to critique it in a future issue, we will return your reading fee.

2. If you would like our written critique of poems that we do not publish, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

3. If possible, type your poem and if not convenient to do so, write it as legibly as you can.

4. If you have written a longer poem...that is, one running to two or more pages...please select the best 20 to 30 lines for a first submission...If we like it, we will ask you to send along the whole piece...at no additional reading charge.

5. Please include a five to ten sentence biography so we will 'know where you are coming from'.

Mail to me personally:
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Sudbury, ON P3B 4G2.

Don Scott is a graduate of the Master of Arts (English) program of Laurentian University. He has written some poetry and edited Northern Lights 14 and 15. He wrote a weekly column for Northern Life for twelve years and was writer in residence at the Sudbury Theatre Centre courtesy of the Ontario Arts Council..

The Northern Lights Anthology '26' is available from:
Mike Barry,
c/o MacDonald-Cartier
High School.
37 Lasalle Av. West,
Sudbury, ON P3A 1W1

Price $3.00 plus $2.00 for postage. If you like poetry, it will be money well spent...Ed.

(continued from page 4)

system that seeks to control the mind by making invisible what is really happening and covering the truth with myth." Gibson provides several specific examples of how the media campaigned against Mr. Kennedy such as the *Wall Street Journal* whose rhetoric..."suggested that the man in the White House was a dangerous radical, an incompetent, a madman , or all three." Consider this campaign and compare it with the rhetoric of the radical right wing of Israel prior to the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin! Harold Weisberg also gives several examples from the Warren Commission's twenty-six volumes of how the media misreported or ignored critical evidence and even how *Life* magazine, which had purchased the Zapruder film of the assassination, had excised certain frames from the film, frames that included evidence that Mr. Kennedy could not have been hit by shots fired from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository because he was hidden from view by the foliage of a tree. To get rid of evidence to the contrary, *Life* magazine simply excised the offending frames.

It is apparent from these three important books that there are 'unknown masters'...whether they are the amorphous 'System' of Charles Reich or the 'military/industrial complex' of Donald Gibson or the powerful interests who assassinated Mr. Kennedy. And there are the 'invisible bonds' of the mass media who create a 'map of reality' that conditions the public at large to accept their role as 'unwitting slaves'.

After reading all three of these books a concerned reader might well feel an urge to reconsider the election of the Mike Harris·Government in Ontario. The 'Common Sense Revolution' which served as the election manifesto for the Progressive Conservatives was largely concocted by propaganda specialists from the United States...and when the rhetoric worked and Mr. Harris was elected as the Premier of the Province he received a hasty visit from none other than George Bush. And Mr. Bush has important links with the 'System', with the 'military industrial complex' and with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

And, if you had never heard of Mr. Bush and his connection to the Bay of Pigs invasion, or of his links to Allen Dulles, or of his November 29, 1963 briefing about the 'Miami Cubans', or of his links to Lee Harvey Oswald's 'best friend' George DeMohrenschildt...well, maybe these critical details just never got publicized by the mass media.

All the more reason to read *Opposing the System, Battling Wall Street,* and *Selections From Whitewash.* You might see an alternative map of the reality that differs from that which is given to you by *Life,* and *Time,* and the NBC and *The Globe and Mail.*

And political acts such as privatizing the CBC or TVO might take on a new significance for you.

Opposing the System; Charles A. Reich. Crown Publisher, Inc., New York. 219 pages; indexed. $32.00Can.

Battling Wall Street; Donald Gibson. Sheridan Square Press, Inc., New York. 195 pages; indexed, Bibliography. $32.95Can.

Selections From Whitewash; Harold Weisberg. Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc., New York. 555 pages (paperback); indexed. $23.95Can.

All books reviewed in *Options* may be purchased from: **BOOKS,** *Ontario Options,* Box 726, Dowling, Ontario P0M 1R0. Cheque or money order must accompany order. We pay the postage.

Reviewer: Paul Lalonde.